

Martin O'Malley, *Governor*  
Anthony G. Brown, *Lt. Governor*



John D. Porcari, *Secretary*  
Neil J. Pedersen, *Administrator*

April 15, 2009

Nelson Castellanos, Division Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration  
City Crescent Building  
Suite 4000  
10 S. Howard Street  
Baltimore MD 21201-2819

Dear Mr. Castellanos:

The Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) is pleased to forward its quarterly Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance status report to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Consistent with our March 2007 conversation, the State Highway Administration will continue to submit its quarterly reports in a letter format for April and October and a full report in January and July. This letter covers the period from January to April 2009, and highlights SHA's accomplishments from the past quarter and its anticipated progress in the upcoming quarter.

An overview of ongoing efforts to meet the requirements of the ADA and Sec. 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and, the Self-Evaluation plan, the Transition plan, and integrated public involvement activities is provided in this letter. SHA's activities on the statewide installation of Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS), including work that has been completed, is currently underway, and is scheduled through September 2009 is also included. Additionally, this report includes updates of the mandatory ADA Awareness training for all SHA employees; and consultant and contractor technical training.

During this past quarter, we completed the formal public outreach efforts regarding the Self Evaluation and continued to implement projects that address issues identified in the Self-Evaluation of access to Public Rights-of-Way (PROW). We are currently finalizing the formal Self-Evaluation document and anticipate sharing it with you shortly. Additionally, we continued the design and construction of several projects to bring our existing facilities into full ADA compliance. SHA also continues to implement APS projects throughout the State.

SHA facility assessments continued to determine what buildings are or are not accessible in accordance with the most current ADA Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG). Buildings that are being reviewed include SHA's district offices, maintenance shops, landscape depots, regional labs, and welcome centers across the state of Maryland.

Thank you, again, for your cooperation and guidance. If you need further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at 410-545-0400, toll-free 800-206-0770 or via email at [npedersen@sha.state.md.us](mailto:npedersen@sha.state.md.us) or Mrs. Linda I. Singer, SHA Title II ADA Coordinator, at 410-545-0362, toll-free 888-204-0157 or via email at [lsinger@sha.state.md.us](mailto:lsinger@sha.state.md.us).

Mr. Nelson Castellanos

April 15, 2008

Page 2 of 2

Sincerely,

Neil J. Pedersen

Administrator

Cc: Patrick Kennedy, Civil Rights Specialist, FHWA  
Lisa MacPhee, Esq., Special Counsel, FHWA  
Mrs. Linda I. Singer, Title II ADA Coordinator, SHA

Mr. Nelson Castellanos  
April 15, 2008

Bcc: Ms. Norie Calvert, Office of Highway Development, SHA  
Ms. Lisa Choplin, Assistant to the Director of Highway Development, SHA  
Ms. Normetha D. Goodrum, Deputy Administrator for Finance, Information  
Technology and Administration, SHA  
Mr. Tom Hicks, P.E., Director of Traffic and Safety, SHA  
Ms. Jennifer A. Jenkins, Director of Equal Opportunity, SHA  
Ms. Harriet Levine, Jacobs  
Mr. Kirk McClelland, Director of Highway Development, SHA  
Scot Morrell, Esq., Assistant Attorney General, SHA  
Mr. Ed Paulis, Office of Traffic and Safety, SHA  
Mr. Greg Welker, Deputy Administrator/Chief Engineer for Operations, SHA  
Mr. Douglas H. Simmons, Deputy Administrator/Chief Engineer for Planning and  
Engineering, SHA  
Ms. Celeste A. Taylor, Jacobs  
Richard Y. Woo, Ph.D., Director of Policy and Research, SHA  
SHA ADA Steering Committee

# Maryland State Highway Quarterly ADA Status Report

## January – April 2009

### **Self-Evaluation and Public Involvement**

The Self-Evaluation draft report has been completed and is currently being internally reviewed. Since the last report, the final formal county meeting was held on February 4<sup>th</sup> in Charles County. Input from the public meetings continues to be used to validate our field reviews, advise us of other challenges best identified by pedestrians with disabilities, and provide input into the prioritization of projects in the Transition Plan. This completes the formal public meetings as apart of the Self Evaluation process. SHA will continue to accept comments through the website, by letter or phone.

### **Transition Plan**

The Office of Highway Design (OHD) has created an ADA Portal that will assist with the prioritization of projects in the Transition Plan. The prioritization criteria include the location of government services, locations of places of public accommodation (health care facilities, senior centers, etc.), access to transit, the presence of pedestrian incidents, and public input. SHA has developed an approach to prioritize projects using the GIS to identify areas with the factors listed above. Areas meeting multiple screening criteria will be ranked higher than those not meeting the criteria. Projects will be grouped into three categories representing varying levels of priority. Projects would then be funded and implemented by category. The Transition Plan is being finalized following the completion of the public meetings.

During this quarter, no additional projects were initiated or completed. Work continues on projects started during the previous quarters.

Additionally, during the traditionally slower winter construction season, 29,538 linear feet of ADA compliant sidewalk was added during this quarter, either through new construction projects or retrofit projects.

### **Accessible Pedestrian Signals**

Progress continues in the area of APS. During this quarter, 30 additional APS projects are under construction or have been completed bringing the total to 424 APS projects installed or under construction. These include both reconstruction projects as well as new traffic signals.

There are approximately 440 additional intersections in design for APS, including both reconstruction and new traffic signals. Of these, approximately 270 are scheduled for Notice to Proceed through March 2010 and approximately 5 are scheduled after March 2010. An additional 165 intersections have been identified but are not scheduled at this time because they are tied to other State or developer projects with uncertain schedules or the lack of resources.

### **Training**

Construction training continued this quarter. One hundred twenty-five (125) people attended the construction training. The participants included utility companies, county staff, SHA staff and contractors.

## Maryland State Highway Quarterly ADA Status Report January – April 2009

SHA developed ADA awareness training for SHA staff (all districts and offices) to focus on awareness of Title II issues and how ADA requirements affect each individual's rights and responsibilities. The SHA Administrator made the mandatory for all SHA employees.

The total number of employees trained to date is 3,111. This represents more than 95% of SHA's total staff and includes administrative, planning, design, maintenance and field personnel.

### **Facilities Review**

The SHA facility review of maintenance shops, landscape depots, district offices, regional labs, and welcome centers continued and the field work was completed this past quarter. The accessibility surveys have been conducted to determine if the buildings are in compliance with the ADAAG. It is important to note that even though a building has been surveyed that it may not necessarily need to comply with the requirements of the ADAAG. All public buildings with construction or alteration date after January 26, 1992 must be readily accessible. Each facility was surveyed for compliance regardless of the date constructed or renovated.